AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended)

A method as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 25, wherein the layer of impermeable material has a periphery and the step of positioning the layer of impermeable material further comprises securing the periphery of the layer of impermeable material to the exterior surface of the ~~product~~ boat hull via adhesive tape.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended)

A method as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 25, wherein the layer of impermeable material has a peripheral edge that is configured and adapted to form an air tight seal with the exterior surface of the ~~product~~ boat hull when biased against the exterior surface by the partial vacuum and the step of removing ~~gaseous reaction products~~ gas and vapor from the ~~product~~ boat hull further comprises securing the peripheral edge of the layer of impermeable material to the exterior surface via the partial vacuum.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended)

A method as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 25, wherein the creation of the partial vacuum in the step of removing ~~gaseous reaction products~~ gas and vapor from the ~~product~~ boat hull commences before the step of applying heat within the space.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended)

A method as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 25, wherein the step of removing ~~gaseous reaction products~~ gas and vapor from the ~~product~~ boat hull further comprises reducing pressure within the space in a manner such that the partial vacuum is maintained between the levels of 2 mb Abs and 5 mb Abs for a period of at least an hour.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended)

A method as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 25, wherein ~~the product is a composite moulding of glassfibre and polyester resin and~~ the step of applying heat within the space further comprises applying sufficient heat to cause the exterior surface of the ~~composite moulding~~ boat hull to maintain a temperature between 80°C and 90°C for at least an hour, the method ~~of treating the composite molding~~ further comprising ~~the~~ a step of preventing the exterior surface of the ~~composite moulding~~ boat hull from reaching a temperature in excess of 90°C throughout the method.

Claims 8-24 (Cancelled)

Claim 25 (Previously Presented)

A method of treating damage on a glassfibre reinforced polyester boat hull, the boat hull having a curved exterior surface, the method comprising:

removing gelcoat from a partial region of the exterior surface of the boat hull where damage has occurred;

positioning a layer of gas permeable material in contact with the partial region of the exterior surface of the boat hull from which the gel coat has been removed;

positioning a layer of impermeable material adjacent the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that the layer of gas permeable material is positioned in a space between the layer of impermeable material and the partial region of the exterior surface of the boat hull from which the gel coat has been removed;

securing the layer of impermeable material to the exterior surface of the hull circumferentially around the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that gas and vapor can be evacuated from the space;

applying heat within the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material;

removing gas and vapor from the hull by creating a partial vacuum by reducing pressure within the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material such that the partial vacuum is in communication with all of said partial region of the exterior surface of the boat hull from which the gel coat has been removed; and

removing the layers of gas permeable and impermeable material from the boat hull; and

applying a layer of gelcoat to the partial region of the exterior surface of the boat hull from which the gel coat has been removed.